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[NAME OF ARTICLE] DRAWING 1
[NAME OF ARTICLE] ABSTRACT 1

- 2 -

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[NAME OF DOCUMENT] SPECIFICATION

[TITLE OF THE INVENTION]

DEMODULATION APPARATUS, DEMODULATION METHOD, AND RECORDING

5 MEDIUM RECORDING CONTROL PROGRAM THEREFOR

[CLAIM OF PATENT]

[CLAIM 1]

A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication
having capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet
10 a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via
different paths, combining the signals, and outputting the
combined signals, comprising:

the apparatus comprises threshold setting means; and
signal selecting means for comparing an incoming
15 signal with a threshold set by said threshold setting means
and for selecting said compared signal according to said
comparison result even if said signal does not meet said
predetermined condition.

[CLAIM 2]

20 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication
according to claim 1, wherein said threshold setting means
sets the threshold based on correlation value information
for signals selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 3]

25 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication
according to claim 1, wherein said threshold setting means
sets the threshold based on correlation value information

for signals selected in the current cycle.

[CLAIM 4]

A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said signal selecting
5 means selects signals that are signals of path locations different from path locations of the signals selected in the previous cycle and that are equal to or above the threshold.

[CLAIM 5]

10 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication according to one of claims 1, 2 and 4, wherein said threshold setting means sets the threshold based on the maximum peak value of the signals selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 6]

15 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication according to claim 1, wherein said threshold setting means sets the threshold as a fixed value.

[CLAIM 7]

20 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication according to one of claims 1-3, wherein said threshold setting means sets the threshold based on the maximum peak value obtained by calculation of a delay profile.

[CLAIM 8]

25 A demodulation apparatus for mobile communication according to one of claims 1-3, wherein said threshold setting means sets the threshold based on an average of values other than a detected peak value by calculation of a delay profile.

[CLAIM 9]

A demodulation method for mobile communication providing capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via
5 different paths, combining the signals, and outputting the combined signals, comprising:

a first step of setting a threshold; and

a second step of comparing an incoming signal with a threshold set by said first step and selecting said compared
10 signal according to said comparison result even if said signal does not meet said predetermined condition.

[CLAIM 10]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to claim 9, wherein said first step comprises
15 setting the threshold based on correlation value information for signals selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 11]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to claim 9, wherein said first step comprises
20 setting the threshold based on correlation value information for signals selected in the current cycle.

[CLAIM 12]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to claim 9 or 10, wherein said second step comprises
25 selecting signals that are signals of path locations different from path locations of the signals selected in the previous cycle and that are equal to or above the

threshold.

[CLAIM 13]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to one of clames 9,10 and 12, wherein said first
5 step comprises setting the threshold based on the maximum peak value of the signals selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 14]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to claim 9, wherein said first step comprises
10 setting the threshold as a fixed value.

[CLAIM 15]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to one of clames 9-11, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold based on the maximum peak
15 value obtained by calculation of a delay profile.

[CLAIM 16]

A demodulation method for mobile communication according to one of claims 9-11, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold based on an average of values
20 other than a detected peak value by calculation of a delay profile.

[CLAIM 17]

A recording medium on which a control program for a demodulation method for mobile communication is recorded,
25 the demodulation method providing capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via different paths, combining the

signals, and outputting the combined signals, wherein

the control program is recorded on the recording medium and comprises a first step of setting a threshold, and a second step of comparing an incoming signal with a threshold
5 set by said first step and selecting said compared signal according to said comparison result even if said signal does not meet said predetermined condition.

[CLAIM 18]

A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said
10 first step comprises setting the threshold based on correlation value information for signals selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 19]

A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said
15 first step comprises setting the threshold based on correlation value information for signals selected in the current cycle.

[CLAIM 20]

A recording medium according to one of claim 17 or
20 18, wherein said second step comprises selecting signals that are signals of path locations different from path locations of the signals selected in the previous cycle and that are equal to or above the threshold.

[CLAIM 21]

25 A recording medium according to one of claims 17, 18 and 20, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold based on the maximum peak value of the signals

selected in the previous cycle.

[CLAIM 22]

A recording medium according to claim 17, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold as a fixed value.

5 [CLAIM 23]

A recording medium according to one of claims 17-19, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold based on the maximum peak value obtained by calculation of a delay profile.

10 [CLAIM 24]

A recording medium according to one of claims 17-19, wherein said first step comprises setting the threshold based on an average of values other than a detected peak value by calculation of a delay profile.

15 [DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION]

[0001]

[TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION]

The present invention relates to a demodulation apparatus, a demodulation method, and a recording medium
20 recording control program therefor. In particular, it relates to a demodulation apparatus, a demodulation method and a recording medium recording control program therefor adopting CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access).

[0002]

25 [PRIOR ART]

Conventionally, in a demodulation circuit as mentioned above a path diversity effect is obtained by path

search and RAKE combining. Examples in the prior art of this kind are disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 10-94041 (hereafter referred to as document 1), Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 10-200506 (hereafter referred to as document 2), Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 11-251962 (hereafter referred to as document 3), and Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 11-261528 (hereafter referred to as document 4).

[0003]

10 The technique disclosed in document 1 involves using at least one of the receiving fingers for search. The technique disclosed in document 2 involves saving the maximum value among previous correlation values and using the maximum value in selecting high values out of correlation values.

15 The technique disclosed in document 3 involves detecting reception levels from reception signals, to compare them with a predetermined threshold, and to determine whether or not a correlation signal of an internal memory should be outputted to a reception path timing generation section

20 depending on the comparison result. The technique disclosed in the document 4 involves reading a sequence of measurements, deriving a timing offset having a resolution higher than a predetermined timing resolution of a searcher unit, and assigning a finger processing element to the best candidate

25 path using the timing offset.

[0004]

[PROBLEM SOLVED BE SOLVED BY INVENTION]

In a mobile communication environment, radio waves to be received are suffered from changes including appearance and disappearance caused by shadowing. Paths that have not been path-searched in intense path changes become
5 interfering components for a receiver and degrade the reception characteristics. Thus, path search with high accuracy and high speed is desired. However, none of the above mentioned documents from 1 to 4 describe measures for solving this problem.

10 [0005]

Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to provide a demodulation apparatus for mobile communication which can receive a path immediately after the path appears and provide good receiving characteristics; a demodulation
15 method for the demodulation apparatus; and a recording medium on which a control program for the demodulation method is recorded.

[0006]

[MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM]

20 For solving the above mentioned problem, a first aspect of the present invention is the demodulation apparatus for mobile communication having capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via different paths, combining the
25 signals, and outputting the combined signals, wherein the apparatus comprises threshold setting means, and signal selecting means for comparing an incoming signal with a

threshold set by the threshold setting means and for selecting the compared signal according to the comparison result even if the signal does not meet the predetermined condition.

[0007]

5 Further, a second aspect of the present invention is the demodulation method for mobile communication providing capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via different paths, combining the signals, and outputting the
10 combined signals, wherein the method comprises a first step of setting a threshold, and a second step of comparing an incoming signal with the threshold set by the first step and selecting the compared signals according to the comparison result even if the signal does not meet the
15 predetermined condition.

[0008]

 Further, a third aspect of the present invention is the recording medium on which a control program for a demodulation method for mobile communication is recorded,
20 the demodulation method providing capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via different paths, combining the signals, and outputting the combined signals, wherein the control program is recorded on the recording medium and
25 comprises a first step of setting a threshold, and a second step of comparing an incoming signal with the threshold set by the first step and selecting the compared signals according

to the comparison result even if the signal does not meet the predetermined condition.

[0009]

The first, second, and third aspects allow for
5 reception of a path immediately after the path appears and
providing good receiving characteristics, since these
aspect are configured to compare the incoming signals with
the threshold set by the threshold setting means and to select
the compared signals according to the comparison result even
10 if the signals do not meet the predetermined condition.

[0010]

[PREFERRED EMBODIMENT OF INVENTION]

First, the features of the present invention will be
described. A demodulation circuit for CDMA mobile
15 communication according to the present invention receives
a path immediately after the path appears to provide good
receiving characteristics by path search processing that
involves adaptively controlling a guard level for finger
assignment according to a correlation peak value obtained
20 by calculation of a delay profile.

[0011]

Fig. 1 shows a configuration of the demodulation
circuit to which outputs of quadrature detection are input.
A path comparing section 3 compares correlation peak values
25 and their path timings detected from a delay profile with
correlation peak values and their path timings assigned to
fingers in the previous cycle. If a path timing determining

section 4 determines from the comparison result that a path with high intensity level has newly appeared, it immediately assigns the path to one of the fingers 5. This allows for maintaining good receiving characteristics.

5 [0012]

Now, embodiments of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings. At first, a first embodiment will be described. Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the first embodiment of the present invention.
10 It shows a configuration of the demodulation circuit, which is adapted for a common demodulation scheme in which fingers /a RAKE are used.

[0013]

Referring to Fig. 1, the demodulation circuit
15 comprises a delay profile calculating section 1, a correlation peak detecting section 2, a path comparing section 3, a path timing determining section 4, fingers 5, a RAKE receiver section 6, and a received data processing section 7.

20 [0014]

Now, operations of this demodulation circuit will be described. I component signals and Q component signals that have been quadrature-detected and demodulated are respectively input to the delay profile calculating section
25 1. In the delay profile calculating section 1, correlation calculation is performed using known data portions of the signals to be received, and a delay profile averaged by

in-phase addition and power addition is created. In the correlation peak detecting section 2, peak search is performed for the delay profile created in the delay profile calculating section 1 to select path locations with high
5 power level for candidate path locations to be assigned to the fingers, and their path timings and correlation values are input to the path comparing section 3.

[0015]

On the other hand, path timings assigned to the fingers
10 in the previous cycle and their correlation value information have been fed back from the path timing determining section 4 to the path comparing section 3, and a threshold is determined from the correlation value information. Then, the path comparing section 3 compares the information that
15 is input from the correlation peak detecting section 2 with the information fed back from the path timing determining section 4 to determine whether or not there is a path exceeding the threshold among the path timings that have not been assigned to the fingers. Then, it outputs the comparison
20 result to the path timing determining section 4.

[0016]

The path timing determining section 4 is provided with a guard level to prevent flapping of paths to be assigned to the fingers. Thus, the path timing determining section
25 4 assigns a path timing to a finger if its peak is detected at a certain path location for more than once, and excludes a path timing from assignment to a finger if its peak is

not detected for more than once. This processing in the path timing determining section 4 is well known.

[0017]

In the present invention, however, if the comparison
5 result in the path comparing section 3 indicates that an
intense path exceeding the threshold has appeared, the path
comparing section 3 controls the guard level (i.e. the guard
level is decreased or caused to be disregarded for that path
timing), and the path timing determining section 4
10 immediately assigns the intense path to a finger. This
processing by the path comparing section 3 and the path timing
determining section 4 is the novel part of this invention.

[0018]

Then, the fingers section 5 performs de-spreading with
15 the timings of the paths assigned respectively to the fingers,
and the RAKE receiver section 6 combines the de-spreading
result of each finger. Then, from the signals combined and
provided with a path diversity effect, the received data
processing section 7 obtains a desired demodulation result
20 for outputting.

[0019]

On the other hand, if an intensive path exceeding the
threshold does not appear, the guard level is used to prevent
flapping of paths to be assigned to the fingers. In other
25 words, the feature of the present invention is that, when
a path with high intensity level that could be an intense
interfering component if not RAKE-combined appeared, the

path is assigned to a finger in preference to other paths. Assigning such a path with high intensity level to a finger in preference to other paths enables maintaining good receiving characteristics.

5 [0020]

Now, a configuration of the path comparing section 3 will be described. Fig. 2 is a block diagram of an example of the path comparing section 3. Referring to it, the path comparing section 3 comprises a path location comparing
10 section 31, a threshold calculating section 32, a level comparing section 33, and a guard level controlling section 34.

[0021]

Next, operations of this path comparing section 3 will
15 be described. Correlation peak detection data D1 obtained in the correlation peak detecting section 2 as well as finger assignment data D2 of the previous cycle obtained in the path timing determining section 4 are input to the path location comparing section 31 to compare the path locations
20 of both data D1 and D2. The threshold calculating section 32 calculates a threshold D3 based on the finger assignment data D2. The level comparing section 33 compares the outputs of the path location comparing section 31, i.e. the level of the data D1 and the threshold D3, where the path location
25 of the data D1 is determined to be unmatched with the path location of the data D2 of the previous cycle. Then, the comparison result is input to the guard level controlling

section 34. The controlling section 34 controls the guard level in the path timing determining section 4 according to the comparison result. That is, if the level of the data D1 is determined to be equal to or above the threshold D3, the guard level controlling section 34 decreases the guard level in the path timing determining section 4 or causes the guard level to be disregarded. On the other hand, if the level of the data D1 is determined to be below the threshold D3, the guard level controlling section 34 causes the guard level in the path timing determining section 4 to be executed.

[0022]

Next, the method for calculating the threshold in the threshold calculating section 32 will be described. The threshold calculating section 32 first detects the maximum peak value A from the finger assignment data D2 of the previous cycle. Then, it multiplies A by B, the result of which is the threshold D3 ($D3 = A \times B$). The value for B can be one or above one ($B \geq 1$; e.g. 1.1). However, it is not to be limited to this value, but it may be a value below one ($0 < B < 1$; e.g. 0.9). In other words, different values can be set for B, depending on the purpose.

[0023]

Fig. 3 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform indicating the processing in the level comparing section 33. Referring to it, if the level comparing section 33 detects that the level of the data F1, which was determined to be unmatched with the path location of the data of the

previous cycle, is equal to or above the threshold D3, the guard level controlling section 34 controls the guard level in the path timing determining section 4. Then, the path timing determining section 4 assigns the data F1 to one of the fingers 5 in preference to other data.

[0024]

Now, the operations of the path comparing section 3 will be described in detail with reference to Fig. 1 and 4. Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing the operations of the path comparing section 3. First, the correlation peak detecting section 2 detects a correlation peak value and a peak location from the delay profile obtained in the delay profile calculating section 1 (step 20). Then, the path comparing section 3 (specifically the path location comparing section 31) determines whether or not the detected peak location has been already assigned to a finger (step 21). Here, a mask width M (M is a real number) is set so as not to cause excess switches of assignment in the finger assignment processing. If the detected timing is within M (if Yes in step 21), the path is considered as an identical path, and it is determined that tracking is performed (step 22).

[0025]

The path comparing section 3 (specifically the threshold calculating section 32) also has the threshold D3 prepared for determining whether or not the path is a newly generated candidate path having high power. If the

peak value is determined to be that of a different path in step 21 (if No in step 21), the peak value is compared with the threshold D3 in the path comparing section 3 (specifically in the level comparing section 33) (step 23). Then, if the
5 peak value is equal to or above the threshold D3 (if Yes in step 23), the guard level controlling section 34 controls the guard level in the path timing determining section 4 (step 25). On the other hand, if the peak value is below the threshold D3 (if No in step 23), the guard level
10 controlling section 34 does not control the guard level in the path timing determining section 4 (step 24).

[0026]

The path timing determining section 4 uses the information (information of whether controlling the guard
15 level or not) from the path comparing section 3 (specifically the guard level controlling section 34). If the detected peak is below the threshold D3, the path timing determining section 4 determines whether or not the path can be assigned to a finger without the guard level condition being controlled
20 (see step 24). If the peak is equal to or above the threshold D3, it controls the guard level conditions (see step 25) to assign the path to a finger in preference to other paths with the decreased guard level that is less than the guard level of step 24. Then, the path to be assigned to a finger
25 is determined from the results of step 22, 24, and 25 (step 26).

[0027]

In this first embodiment, the maximum peak value A is detected in the finger assignment data D2 of the previous cycle to determine the threshold D3 based on the maximum peak value A. However, this embodiment is not limited by
5 the data D2 of "the previous cycle", but it can be configured to determine the threshold D3 based on the average of maximum peak values for the past several cycles, for example.

[0028]

Next, a second embodiment will be described. Fig.
10 5 is a block diagram of the second embodiment. In Fig. 5, components similar to those in the configuration of the first embodiment (see Fig. 1) will be labeled with the like reference numbers, and description about them will be omitted.

15 [0029]

Referring to Fig. 5, the second embodiment is different from the first embodiment in that the feedback line from the path timing determining section 4 to the path comparing section 3 is eliminated. In other words, it is different
20 from the first embodiment in that the path comparing section 3 does not determine the threshold D3 based on the finger assignment data D2 of the previous cycle. In the second embodiment, the path comparing section 3 uses a fixed value D4 as the threshold.

25 [0030]

Now, a configuration of the path comparing section 3 will be described. Fig. 6 is a block diagram of the path

comparing section 3 in the second embodiment. In Fig. 6, components similar to those in the configuration of the path comparing section 3 in the first embodiment (see Fig. 2) will be labeled with the like reference numbers, and description about them will be omitted. Referring to Fig. 6, the path comparing section 3 comprises the threshold calculating section 32, the level comparing section 33, and the guard level controlling section 34. That is, the path location comparing section 31 is eliminated.

10 [0031]

Next, operations of the path comparing section 3 will be described. The threshold calculating section 32 do not specially calculate the threshold, since the above mentioned fixed value D4 is input to the threshold calculating section 32 and adopted directly as the threshold. The level comparing section 33 compares the correlation peak detection data D1 from the correlation peak detecting section 2 with the threshold D4. If the data D1 is equal to or above the threshold D4, the level comparing section 33 causes the guard level controlling section 34 to control the guard level. Accordingly, the correlation peak detection data D1 is assigned to a finger in the path timing determining section 4. On the other hand, if the data D1 is below the threshold D4, the level comparing section 33 does not cause the guard level controlling section 34 to control the guard level. Accordingly, the guard level processing is performed in the path timing determining section 4.

[0032]

Fig. 7 and 8 are diagrams of profile waveforms indicating the processing in the path comparing section 3. They show that the threshold D4 is fixed in both cases where
5 it is compared with the delay profile of the previous cycle and where it is compared with the current delay profile. They also show that a data having the maximum peak value F2 that is above the threshold D4 (data of a path location that is different from a path location assigned to a finger
10 in the previous cycle) was detected by the path comparing section 3 in the current comparison. Thus, the path comparing section 3 controls the guard level so that the data having the maximum peak value F2 is assigned to one of the fingers 5 in preference to other data in the path
15 timing determining section 4.

[0033]

Now, a third embodiment will be described. Fig. 9 is a block diagram of the third embodiment. In Fig. 9, components similar to those in the configuration of the first
20 embodiment (see Fig. 1) will be labeled with the like reference numbers, and description about them will be omitted.

[0034]

Referring to Fig. 9, the third embodiment is different
25 from the second embodiment (see Fig. 5) in that a level calculating section 8 is provided instead of the fixed value D4. Output of the delay profile calculating section 1 is

input to the level calculating section 8, and output of the level calculating section 8 is input to the path comparing section 3. The level calculating section 8 detects data having the maximum peak value F3 from the delay profile of the current cycle (not of the previous cycle). Then, the threshold calculating section 32 in the path comparing section 3 calculates the threshold D5 based on the maximum peak value F3. That is, the threshold calculating section 32 multiplies the maximum peak value F3 by G ($0 < G < 1$), the result of which is the threshold D5 ($D5 = F3 \times G$).
[0035]

Fig. 10 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform indicating the processing in the path comparing section 3. It shows that the maximum peak value F4 that is equal to or above the threshold D5 (data of a path location that is different from a path location assigned to a finger in the previous cycle) was detected in the current cycle. Thus, the path comparing section 3 controls the guard level so that the data having the maximum peak value F4 is assigned to one of the fingers 5 in preference to other data in the path timing determining section 4.

[0036]

Now, a fourth embodiment will be described. A block diagram of the fourth embodiment is similar to the block diagram of the third embodiment (Fig. 9). The fourth embodiment is different from the third embodiment in that the level calculating section 8 calculates an average D6

of values other than the detected peak value obtained by delay profile calculation in the current cycle (i.e. an averaged interference level or noise level) and determines the threshold based on the average D6. That is, it multiplies
5 the average D6 by $H (1 \leq H)$, the result of which is the threshold D7 ($D7 = D6 \times H$).

[0037]

Fig. 11 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform indicating the processing in the path comparing section 3.
10 It shows that the maximum peak value F5 that is equal to or above the threshold D7 (data of a path location that is different from a path location assigned to a finger in the previous cycle) was detected by the path comparing section 3 in comparing the current cycle. Thus, the path comparing
15 section 3 controls the guard level so that the data having the maximum peak value F5 is assigned to one of the fingers 5 in preference to other data in the path timing determining section 4.

[0038]

20 Now, a fifth embodiment will be described. Fig. 12 is a block diagram of the fifth embodiment. In Fig. 12, components similar to those in the configurations of the third and fourth embodiments (see Fig. 9) will be labeled with the like reference numbers, and description about them
25 will be omitted. The fifth embodiment is different from the third and fourth embodiments in that a delay section 9 is added to the output side of the level calculating section

8, and that the output of the delay section 9 is input to the path comparing section 3. This means that the calculation result of the level calculating section 8 is delayed by one cycle in the delay section 9 and then input to the path comparing section 3. The path comparing section 3 compares the delay profile of the current cycle with the threshold of the previous cycle.

[0039]

In the fifth embodiment, data having the maximum peak value F6 is detected from the delay profile of the previous cycle to determine the threshold based on the maximum peak value F6. That is, it multiplies the maximum peak value F6 by G ($0 < G < 1$), the result of which is the threshold D8 ($D8 = F6 \times G$).

[0040]

Fig. 13 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform indicating the processing in the path comparing section 3. It shows that data having the maximum peak value F7 that is equal to or above the threshold D8 (data of a path location that is different from a path location of data of the previous cycle) was detected by the path comparing section 3 in the current cycle by comparing the delay profile of the current cycle with the threshold D8 determined based on the delay profile of the previous cycle. Thus, the path comparing section 3 controls the guard level so that the data having the maximum peak value F7 is assigned to one of the fingers in preference to other data in the path timing determining

section 4.

[0041]

Now, a sixth embodiment will be described. The configuration of the sixth embodiment is similar to the configuration of the fifth embodiment (see Fig. 12). The sixth embodiment is different from the fifth embodiment in that it calculates an average D9 of values other than the detected peak value obtained by the delay profile calculation in the previous cycle (i.e. an averaged interference level or noise level) for the threshold and determines the threshold based on the average D9. That is, it multiplies the average D9 by H ($1 \leq H$), the result of which is the threshold D10 ($D10 = D9 \times H$).

[0042]

Fig. 14 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform indicating the processing in the path comparing section 3. It shows that data having the maximum peak value F8 that is equal to or above the threshold D10 (data of a path location that is different from a path location of data of the previous cycle) was detected by the path comparing section 3 in the current cycle by comparing the delay profile of the current cycle with the threshold D10 determined based on the delay profile of the previous cycle. Thus, the path comparing section 3 controls the guard level so that the data having the maximum peak value F8 is assigned to one of the fingers 5 in preference to other data in the path timing detecting section 4.

[0043]

Fig. 15 is a flow chart indicating the operations of the second embodiment through the sixth embodiment. Referring to it, first the threshold is set based on the delay profile determined in the delay profile calculating section 1 (step 31). Then, it is determined whether or not a correlation peak value detected in the correlation peak detecting section 2 is equal to or above the threshold (step 32). If the correlation peak value is equal to or above the threshold (if Yes in step 32), the guard level is controlled (step 33). On the other hand, if it is below the threshold (if No in step 32), the guard level is not controlled (step 34). Then, the path to be assigned to a finger is determined by the results of steps 33 and 34 (step 35).

[0044]

Now, a seventh embodiment will be described. The seventh embodiment relates to a recording medium on which a control program for the demodulation method is recorded. Fig. 16 is a block diagram of an example of a recording medium drive. Referring to it, the recording medium drive consists of a CPU (Central Processing Unit) 11, an input section 12, a storage section 13, and a path search processing circuit 15. The path search processing circuit 15 represents the above described path search processing section that consists of the delay profile calculating section 1, the correlation peak detecting section 2, the path comparing section 3, the

path timing determining section 4, and so on. Recorded on the recording medium 14 is the control program represented by the above described flow charts of Fig. 4 and 15.

[0045]

5 Next, operations of the recording medium drive will be described. When an instruction to input the program is first output from the input section 12 to the CPU 11, the CPU 11 reads the control program from the recording medium 14 and writes it into the storage section 13. After that,
10 when an instruction to initiate the program is output from the input section 12 to the CPU 11, the CPU 11 reads the control program from the storage section 13 and controls the path search processing circuit 15 based on the control program. The details on the control will not be described,
15 as it has been given above.

[0046]

[EFFECT OF INVENTION]

According to the first invention of the present invention, it is possible to receive a path immediately after
20 the path appears and to provide good receiving characteristics. This is because the first invention is the demodulation apparatus for mobile communication having capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals incoming via
25 different paths, combining the signals, and outputting the combined signals, wherein the demodulation apparatus comprises threshold setting means, and signals selecting

means for comparing the incoming signals with a threshold set by the threshold setting means and for selecting the compared signals according to the comparison result even if the signals do not meet the predetermined condition.

5 [0047]

Specifically, a first advantage is the ability of quickly tracking changes in paths to be received and providing good receiving characteristics. This is provided by the fact that it is possible to respond to paths to be received immediately after they appear by assigning a new path with high power to a finger in preference to other paths if such a path is detected from the delay profile.

[0048]

A second advantage is the ability of reducing the influence of erroneous detection of path timings caused by noise, and providing good receiving characteristics. This is provided by the fact that it is possible to control the guard level in an appearance of a path with a sufficiently high level of intensity using a threshold for the guard level control.

20 [0049]

Further, according to the second invention of the present invention, the same advantages as those of the above mentioned first invention are obtained. This is because the second invention is the demodulation method for mobile communication providing capability of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined condition out of signals

incoming via different paths, combining the signals, and
outputting the combined signals, wherein the demodulation
method comprises a first step of setting a threshold, and
a second step of comparing the incoming signals with the
5 threshold set by the first step and selecting the compared
signals according to the comparison result even if the signals
do not meet the predetermined condition.

[0050]

Further, according to the third invention of the
10 present invention, the same advantages as those of the above
mentioned first invention are obtained. This is because
the third invention is the recording medium on which a control
program for a demodulation method for mobile communication
is recorded, the demodulation method providing capability
15 of cyclically selecting signals that meet a predetermined
condition out of signals incoming via different paths,
combining the signals, and outputting the combined signals,
wherein the control program is recorded on the recording
medium and comprises a first step of setting a threshold,
20 and a second step of comparing the incoming signals with
the threshold set by the first step and selecting the compared
signals according to the comparison result even if the signals
do not meet the predetermined condition.

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS]

25 [FIG.1]

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a first embodiment;

[FIG.2]

Fig. 2 is a block diagram of an example of a path
comparing section 3;

[FIG.3]

Fig. 3 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform
5 indicating processing in a level comparing section 33;

[FIG.4]

Fig. 4 is a flow chart showing operations of the path
comparing section 3;

[FIG.5]

10 Fig. 5 is a block diagram of a second embodiment;

[FIG.6]

Fig. 6 is a block diagram of the path comparing section
3 in the second embodiment;

[FIG.7]

15 Fig. 7 is a diagram of a profile waveform indicating
processing in the path comparing section 3;

[FIG.8]

Fig. 8 is a diagram of a profile waveform indicating
processing in the path comparing section 3;

20 [FIG.9]

Fig. 9 is a block diagram of a third embodiment;

[FIG.10]

Fig. 10 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform
indicating processing in the path comparing section 3;

25 [FIG.11]

Fig. 11 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform
indicating processing in the path comparing section 3;

[FIG.12]

Fig. 12 is a block diagram of a fifth embodiment;

[FIG.13]

Fig. 13 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform
5 indicating processing in the path comparing section 3;

[FIG.14]

Fig. 14 is a diagram of a delay profile waveform
indicating processing in the path comparing section 3;

[FIG.15]

10 Fig. 15 is a flow chart showing operations of the second
embodiment through the sixth embodiment; and

[FIG.16]

Fig. 16 is a block diagram of an example of a recording
medium drive.

15 [DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERALS]

- 1 delay profile calculating section
- 2 correlation peak detecting section
- 3 path comparing section
- 4 path timing determining section
- 20 8 level calculating section
- 9 delay section
- 14 recording medium
- 15 path search processing circuit
- 32 threshold calculating section
- 25 33 level comparing section
- 34 guard level controlling section